Crises in Tobacco Market

4427. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level meeting with tobacco traders and exporters was held on march 25, 2000 in New Delhi to find a solution to the crises in the tobacco market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made to explore tobacco market in foreign countries to increase exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Commerce Secretary reviewed the crisis caused by the excess supply of tobacco compounded by the unsold stocks held by the traders. The manufacturers, exporters, traders and dealers were prevailed upon to purchase the authorised crop to the extent indicated by them respectively. Measures to cope with the unauthorised crop were also considered.

(c) A delegation of 6 members visited Libya, Jordan, Egypt and Algeria in February, 2000 to promote Indian tobacco exports, Another Indian tobacco trade delegation including STC representatives, visited Russia to explore opportunities for tobacco export. Further a delegation will be visiting countries like China, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan to find new market for export of tabacco.

Large Industrial Units in the Country

†4428. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of large industrial units established till the end of March, 2000 in the country;

(b) the number of units established in private sector out of the said units; and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total amount of investment made in such units till the said period, alongwith the foreign capital therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the period between August 1991 to March, 2000, a total of 4712 non-small scale industrial units with investment worth Rs. 1,87,656 crore have been set up.

(b) Out of these, about 4598 units are in the private sector.

(c) During the period between August 1991 to February, 2000 a total of 10,610 FDI approvals envisaging an amount of Rs. 2,12,664 crore have been granted. The FDI inflow during the same period has been Rs. 72,778 crore.

Second Round of IT Agreement at WTO

4429. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India proposed to press for Information Technology Services in the Second Round of I.T. Agreement (ITA) at the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the strategy devised to facilitate granting of trade visas to software professionals.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) aims to expand world trade in information technology products by providing enhanced market access opportunities while facilitating the growth and usage of Information Technology (IT) for the dynamic expansion of world economy. India is a signatory to the Information Technology Agreement, which is a plurilateral agreement under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Keeping in view the importance of Information Technology in international trade, 14 countries have submitted proposals for the expansion of product coverage under this agreement. This is generally being referred to as ITA-II. However, the earlier ITA and the proposed ITA-II cover in their ambit issues relating to IT products only and there is no proposal at present to include IT services under this agreement.

(b) Services negotiation have commenced from 1-1-2000 as mandated under Art XIX of General Agreement on Trade in Services. India had taken up the issue of freer movement of its professionals as a part of its implementation